

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

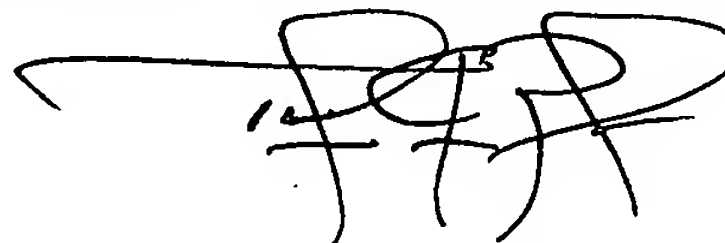
Claims 1-9 have been allowed in this application and claims 10-18 have been rejected. Specifically, the Examiner has rejected claims 10, 11, 13, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bhomeijer et al. (EP 0720816A1). Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 12, 14, and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohmeijer et al. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 10-18 such that claims 1-9 may issue. Accordingly, Applicant requests favorable action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes claims 1-9 are in condition for issuance and respectfully requests allowance of such claims. If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515/558-0200.

Any fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this amendment are enclosed herein; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,



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